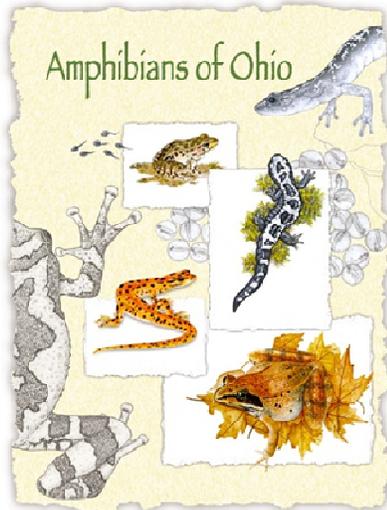


Amphibians of Ohio

First-of-its-Kind Book Recently Published by the Ohio Biological Survey



Exquisite photographs and original artwork, as well as comprehensive accounts of all of the frogs, toads, and salamanders of Ohio are contained in the groundbreaking new book *Amphibians of Ohio*. This 900-page, hardcover book was recently released by the Ohio Biological Survey. The book is available at:

www.ohiobiologicalsurvey.org/pub_highlight/

People typically think of amphibians as creatures that start their lives in water, swimming like fish and breathing with gills. When we are children we learn that as these aquatic larvae mature, they eventually undergo a miraculous transformation: sprouting legs and developing lungs, expressing a new-found preference for a terrestrial lifestyle. But, for those who study amphibians in more detail, they are aware that the variations and

adaptations for survival of this fascinating Class of animals take other, less familiar, forms as well.

One family of salamanders, for example, never develops lungs; some salamander species forego a larval stage and hatch directly as miniature adults; one species of frog goes from tadpole to adult in the brief span of just two weeks; some salamander species are aquatic their entire lives; and some amphibians reach sexual maturity very quickly, while others may take years before they are capable of breeding. *Amphibians of Ohio* explores the fascinating diversity of this group's life histories, developmental paths, reproductive strategies, and ecological niches.

Thirty-three knowledgeable and field experienced zoologists authored and edited *Amphibians of Ohio*. They present up-to-date information about the State's 14 species of frogs and toads and 25 species/subspecies of salamanders. The book also describes an extraordinary group of salamanders that use a form of reproduction unknown in any other vertebrate – the unisexual *Ambystoma* salamanders utilize genes from multiple species!



This book deftly combines non-technical text with rigorous scientific data. This wide-ranging approach accommodates the needs of a variety of users including local, state and federal natural resource agencies; academics; amateur and professional naturalists; environmental consultants; and anyone else looking for a complete reference for all of the naturally occurring amphibians in Ohio.

Life histories, taxonomies, habitats, distributions, and conservation status are described in detail for every single species of wild amphibian in Ohio. The thorough treatment covered in the text is elaborated upon in tables, maps, graphs and photographs. The 73 pages of literature citations are an additional resource.

“Naturalists and others have been studying and writing about the state’s amphibians since the early 1800’s,” said Greg Smith, Executive Director of the Ohio Biological Survey. “But, until now, there has never been a comprehensive treatment of the biology of all of Ohio's frogs, toads, and salamanders within a single volume. *Amphibians of Ohio* fills that void.”



Development of this publication was supported by the Ohio Division of Wildlife through the Wildlife Diversity and Endangered Species Fund. This fund consists of donations through the state income tax check-off program, sales of the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp, and the purchase of Cardinal license plates. Additional, generous financial assistance for printing the book came from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Crane Hollow Foundation, Toledo Zoo, and Cincinnati Zoo. The Toledo Naturalists Association and Akron Zoo also contributed funding for printing.

The Ohio Biological Survey is pleased to offer *Amphibians of Ohio* for the price of \$90 (\$72 for OBS members) plus shipping and handling. The book is a major milestone that covers an important group of animals that have played critical roles in the natural history of Ohio. It should prove to be an invaluable reference book for years to come. To order a copy visit http://www.ohiobiologicalsurvey.org/pub_highlight/

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